

April 29, 1998

Dear EOS Validation Investigator:

I want to keep abreast of the activities of your EOS Validation investigation as it unfolds. You should expect 2-3 such requests for status information during each year. This is the first such request. These status reports should be brief (2 page max, excluding any figures). I am particularly interested in progress, milestones, issues, and highlights (science results, implementation, etc.) that may help the EOS Project Science Office to defend the program or assist you in some way. Some of you have not been in possession of spending authority for very long but I want to get a read on where you stand now. I would appreciate your response by May 29, 1998.

Issues of particular concern that should be addressed are:

Establishment of connections to, or collaborations with, the instrument teams, if this is a fundamental requirement for the success of your investigation such as in the case of providing correlative measurements to the teams or of obtaining data products from the teams in a timely and efficient manner. Have you been in contact with the appropriate Instrument Science Teams? Have the teams conferred some official status or recognition to your investigation? What is your assessment of the situation in light of your needs? Is there something that the Project Science Office might do to facilitate making the needed connection?

Establishment of an appropriate data exchange/archival mechanism. It is imperative that exchange of information occur at a rate much exceeding the traditional publication avenue for this program to be successful. If your project generates correlative data, how do you intend to provide access to the teams?...to the broader community? If your project directly generates validation results, do you have a plan for how to communicate this information to the teams?...to the broader community? Are you and the teams developing a cooperative approach? What is the status/schedule?

Also, I want to provide a hyperlink from our Validation Investigation directory to a homepage for your investigation, if one exists. The HomePage mechanism can be a very effective means to help address issues (1) and (2) above. Please indicate if you have or will be developing such a HomePage and its URL.

You can send your Investigation Status Report to me (starr@climate.gsfc.nasa.gov) as an attachment to an email or by sending an email giving the ftp location from which we can retrieve the file. In terms of the style of the report, I would very much appreciate a style that allows me (or any other reader) to quickly garner the most important information while providing more detailed textual explanation when needed. It needs to be brief but focused. I will be assimilating the information from more than 40 of these reports. Please don't make me dig into pages of solid text unless absolutely necessary. In terms of file format, we have found that "pdf" or "postscript" works the best given the wide variety of systems out there, especially if the file contains graphics. I am running MS-Word 6.0.1 on a Macintosh System 7.1, so that would also work well.

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Separate from your investigation status report, I ask that you please confirm that our directory listing of your investigation is correct (title and team member information). The directory listing of EOS Validation Investigations (funded via NRA-97 MTPE-03) is available from the Validation HomePage (<http://eospso.gsfc.nasa.gov/validation/valpage.html>). For now, there is a link to the directory on the front page and, for the longer term, the link also appears under the Noteworthy Information/EOS Validation Investigations link (and under EOS Science Investigations on the EOS Project Science Office HomePage at URL: http://eospso.gsfc.nasa.gov/eospso_homepage.html). An "abstract" database of all EOS Validation Investigations has also been constructed. The "abstract" for your investigation is accessible under Noteworthy Information/EOS Validation Investigations if you "click" on "Abstracts of Investigations" and then click on your name. I would appreciate it if you would likewise confirm that the contents of the abstract listing are accurate. I would be happy to accept any necessary corrections, updates or embellishments to this information. Please send me an email (subject: Validation Directory) confirming your directory listing and "abstract", including any updates.

I am considering whether it would be useful or appropriate to provide on-line access to the "status" reports that you will submit. This information may be valuable to others in EOS and the broader Earth Science community. Clearly, there may be items/issues that you would be reluctant to have appear on-line. To be useful to me, however, it is also very important that your report address difficult issues and concerns in a candid

manner. This might be done by providing 2 versions of your report, a sanitized for-public-release version (".pub" in the name) and another private (".pri" in the name) version for me. Thus, you would do the sanitizing. I am interested in your views on this. You may include your input in the directory-listing-confirmation email requested above.

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You surely have noted that you are now on a new (for most) email list, iwg.everybody, as a result of your joining the EOS investigator family. You also probably noted, with dismay, the message recently sent by Yoram Kaufman, EOS AM-1 Project Scientist, concerning the delay in launch of the AM-1 mission. At this point in time, the eventual launch date has not been set but it is pretty clear that there will be a significant delay, maybe into 1999. The situation should become more clear over the next few weeks.

Many of the EOS Validation Investigations are strongly tied to the timing of the launch and the availability of the data products from AM-1. Some are not. At this time, I do not have a specific plan for how to deal with this delay as regards the funding of the validation investigations. However, some actions may be necessary to preserve the temporal alignment between validation activities and resources (budget) and the spacecraft and Instrument Science Team schedules. Correlative data for observations that do not exist is not a fruitful use of resources. I recently re-aligned budgets for some investigations involved with SAGE III validation for similar reasons (6-month launch delay) with the result that, in select cases, funding was reduced in the 1st year with the expectation that the investigation would then be funded into a 4th year. In the end, I will do my best to help you do the job that you proposed to do. To the extent possible, adjustments will be done investigation-by-investigation based on the specific requirements.

At this time, you should to give some serious thought to the impact of the AM-1 launch delay on the workplan of your investigation. How strongly does your workplan/schedule depend on the availability of AM-1 data? I would appreciate any provisional input you might wish to provide in this respect. Please send under separate email (subject: AM-1 Delay Impacts). Understand that it is probably inevitable that I will be making an "official" request for such information at some time in the not too distant future. Things will then progress very rapidly, though the fact that we are already nearly 2/3rds through FY98 severely constrain my options on FY98

funding, especially given the present taboo on uncoded carry-over here at Goddard.

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In summary, I have requested:

- 1) a brief status report on your investigation by May 29, including the URL of your investigation homepage, if any;
- 2) confirmation of the accuracy of our on-line directory listing for your investigation, including the "abstract", any updates, and your views on public on-line release of the periodic status reports;
- 3) any provisional input you might wish to provide about the impact of the AM-1 launch delay on your investigation, and possible ways to deal with these impacts.

Lastly, you should be aware that there are rather severe budget pressures on EOS, and on the Validation Program in particular. I do not want to go into details, but my need for information on the Validation Investigations is strongly amplified by the present budget climate. I would very much appreciate your timely response.

Sincerely,

David Starr
EOS Validation Scientist

p.s., Please use the suggested subject line indicator in your email response(s) to this request. That will very much help me more effectively manage the information flow.

Thank you!